



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
Joe W. Stecher

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

March 20, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Indictments and informations have been filed charging several people with the unlawful taking of bald eagles, and illegal purchase, possession and sale of eagle and redtail hawk feathers. Lamar Bertucci, age 23, of Macy, Nebraska, is charged in a three-count indictment. Count I of the indictment alleges Bertucci shot and killed a bald eagle from on or about January 1, 2007, through February 28, 2007. The maximum possible penalty includes imprisonment of 1 year, a \$100,000 fine, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$25 special assessment. Count II of the indictment charges Bertucci with possession of bald eagle feathers on or about March 28, 2007. The maximum possible penalty includes imprisonment of 2 years, a \$250,000 fine, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. Count III of the indictment charges Bertucci with the sale of red-tail hawk feathers from on or about May 1, 2007, through May 30, 2007. The maximum possible penalty includes imprisonment of 1 year, a \$100,000 fine, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$25 special assessment.

Shane Bertucci, age 25, of Macy, Nebraska, is also charged in a three-count indictment. Count I of the indictment alleges Bertucci shot and killed a bald eagle from on or about February 1, 2006, through March 30, 2006. The maximum possible penalty includes imprisonment of 1 year, a \$100,000 fine, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$25 special assessment. Count II of the indictment alleges Bertucci shot and killed a second bald eagle from on or about December 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006. The maximum possible penalty since this is a second offense includes imprisonment of 2 years, a \$250,000 fine, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. Count III of the indictment charges Bertucci with the sale of red-tail hawk feathers from on or about November 1, 2006, through December 31, 2006. The maximum possible penalty includes imprisonment of 1 year, a \$100,000 fine, 1 year of supervised release, and a \$25 special assessment.

Misdemeanor informations were also filed against Jeff Miller, Alton Porter, Edgar Harlan,

Thomas Snowball, Theodore McCauley and Quentin Dick in connection with their alleged unlawful taking of eagles and unlawful purchase, possession and sale of eagle and redtail hawk feathers. Each of the defendants were charged as follows:

Alton Porter, age 29 of South Sioux City, NE, is charged with purchasing eagle feathers, between March 1, 2007, through March 30, 2007;

Edgar Harlan, age 67 of Walthill, NE, is charged with purchasing red-tailed hawk feathers, from May 1, 2007 through May 31, 2007;

Thomas Snow ball, age 48 of Winnebago, NE, is charged with selling an eagle tail from November 1, 2006 through November 30, 2006;

Theodore McCauley, age 39 of Macy, NE, is charged with purchasing eagle feathers from November 1 through November 30, 2006;

Quentin Dick, age 42 of Macy, NE, is charged with taking a bald eagle without being permitted to do so, in that he shot and killed a bald eagle;

Jeff Miller, age 29 of Macy, NE, is charged with possessing eagle feathers from January 1, 2007 through February 28, 2007.

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty: Felony penalties are set forth above. Each of the misdemeanor counts is punishable by up to 1 year in prison, up to a \$100,000 fine, up to one year of supervised release and \$25 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Northeast Nebraska

Location of Arrest: NA

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme: NA

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: November of 2006 through May of 2007

Federal Arrest Date: NA

Date Complaint Issued: NA

Indictment Returned Date: March 20, 2009.

Initial Appearance Date:

Plea or Trial and Date(s):

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: Initial appearance and arraignment

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Yet to be determined

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Will be released

Assigned District Court Judge: Yet to be determined

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: JWS